effective. No subsidy is provided by the DT & TDC. However, it is ensured that the package are not very costly.

Regular tour packages are also offered for budget tourists by various other State Tourism Corporations etc.

4. The Ministry of Railways have proposed to run a special tourist train of ordinary Sleeper Class Coaches on a pre-determined schedule. There will be multiple boarding points from where the tourist can board the train and the tourists will be taken to various important places of tourist and historical importance. The Indian Railways, Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been entrusted with the formulation of comprehensive package based on the market survey in consultation with the various reputed Tour Operators/Travel Agents and the State Tourism Departments.

Economic benefits of tourism

2217. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study to assess the economic benefits of tourism in Tamil Nadu and other States is being undertaken;

(b) if so, the progress made thereon; and

(c) by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKACHOWDHURY). (a) Astudy to assess the economic benefits of tourism in the States of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Orissa and Maharashtra was assigned to a consulting agency during the month of November. 2003.

(b) and (c) The consulting agency has since submitted the draft report which have been sent to the concerned State Governments for their comments which are awaited.

Irrigation Projects under AIBP

2218. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of last mile irrigation projects completed under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) as on 31st March, 2004, State-wise;